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MESSENGER



KITCHEN + KOCKTAILS

Celebrating 197 Years of THE BLACK PRESS

I Messenger

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I Messenger

Established 2011

CREDO OF THE BLACK PRESS

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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QUIT PLAYIN'

The Dallas Morning News headline that waylaid me wasn't funny at all. It read: "Defeated Republican calls Texas state government 'the most corrupt ever! He calls Gov. Greg Abbott a liar and blames two billion-aires who, he says, control the state."

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TAKING CARE OF GRANDMOTHER!

FORT WORTH, TX. - Texas Capital, Trinity Habitat for Humanity and HistoryMaker Homes have joined forces to rebuild the home of Dr. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." The official Wall Raising Ceremony for her new home took place on Thursday, March 21, 2024...

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MY TRUTH

by
Cheryl Smith
Publisher



Thanks Kitchen+Kocktails



Former NNPA Chair Cloves Campbell enjoys decor.



Current NNPA Chair, Bobby R. Henry, Sr shares food at Kitchen+Kocktails

I am so proud of Kitchen+Kocktails By Kevin Kelley.

I was celebrating Black Press Week in the nation's capital, with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) last week.

What an exciting time. It was on March 16, 1827 when the first issue of Freedom's Journal was published — the first African American owned and operated newspaper in this country. The owners were John Brown Russworm and Samuel Cornish.

On the front page, the following state-



Publishers Fran Farrar and Cloves Campbell review menu.

ment appeared:

"We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us."

Which brings me to my truth.

There are some serious truths about the so-called mainstream press.

If you hear people complaining about inequities or racist coverage in 2024, imagine how it was 197 years ago.

The Black Press had a noble beginning and there were valiant men and women who sacrificed everything to provide Black people with a voice.

I can't help but believe that if they were here today; they would be disappointed that percentage-wise fewer Black people are supportive of the institution they lived, fought and died for.

So as I gathered with other publishers from across the country my heart was full with pride. These soldiers without swords were carrying the torch. They were speaking up and speaking out.

What can I say? I tried to imagine the challenges over the decades, as we march toward 200 years of the Black Press.



Service with a smile.

The love I feel for the Black Press is so strong, because I so deeply believe in what I am doing; telling the stories of our people from the rooter to the tooter (essentially the beginning to the ending). There was a time when the Black Press covered Black people from the time they were born until they died.

That meant you got to hear about the birth, going to school, events they participated in, graduations, church programs, society programs and organizations, employment, and more.

Someone went off to college, and they graduated, and some were drafted into the military. We read about all of that.

There were the engagements, marriages, baby showers, and anniversaries.

We read about those returning home from the military; and sadly we learned of the death of those who didn't come home.

Still further, the Black Press informed about promotions, and job retirements.

It was especially nice to read about those wonderful family reunions. And then, we also learned through our Black

Press, about the deaths.

It was so different from what we read about in other publications.

That's probably why more than 150 years after the birth of the Black Press, the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Communicators, under the leadership of the group that was affectionately called the "Dallas Mafia," began holding community forums — "How to get in the news without committing murder!"

It seemed the only way Blacks were covered in the mainstream, for the most part, was if they committed a crime

So every year we come together and we celebrate the founding of the Black Press, and we celebrate the courageous men and women who made sure that today we could look back, and read about the rich history of Black people in America in our Black newspapers.

Now back to Kitchen+Kocktails.

When NNPA was not taking care of business, we had to eat. Folks suggested places. I remembered that while they originated in Dallas, TX, they had a restaurant in Washington DC, so I suggested it to fellow publishers.

I knew it was a stretch, because this place is very popular, and for good reason.

I didn't know if we'd be able to get in so I called a former coworker from our days at Paul Quinn college, who happens to be the mom of Kevin Kelley; the owner of the restaurant. And I called his sister Deanna who, like her brother, was in Sen. Royce West's Dr. Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program and did the equivalent of throwing a hat in the air.

I was so pleased with Kitchen+Kocktails.

From the time we walked in, they treated us special, but guess what they treated everybody special and that was so heartwarming.

The staff was on point. The food was great.

When they said "catfish" — they served great catfish, not Swai! Our crew really liked the black-eyed peas, lamb chops, and everything placed before them!

One of the publishers, Chairman Bobby Henry, is my classmate from Florida A&M University decided he couldn't eat all of his Bread Pudding so he gifted me.

Lo and behold later that night I get a call because he wants his bread pudding.

I told him it was Black history!

Two days later we returned. One of the publishers, Brian Townsend talked about how he enjoyed the experience and I was just beaming inside. They found the price to be affordable, the food to be wonderful and they really enjoyed themselves, especially when the chef came to greet us!

In 1827 you didn't have a choice, you had to eat Black, but you have one in 2024 and if it was good for you then why is it not good for you today?

To the entire Kitchen+Kocktails family, I get choked up even writing about the experience because I am so proud of you all.

Back at the hotel we told the concierge about our experience and how reasonable the meal was for the portions and taste.

NNPA President and CEO, Dr. Ben Chavis, with three other members of our group also enjoyed Kitchen+Kocktails.

It was wonderful!

As we go about our lives, we need to understand we need the Black Press and we need Black businesses, like Kitchen+Kocktails.

Please search deep, down deep, and make a commitment to support those who are committed to supporting us!

After all, you shouldn't ask people to do for you what you won't do!

Kitchen+Kocktails completed their assignment with flying colors! Our ancestors would be proud, like I am!

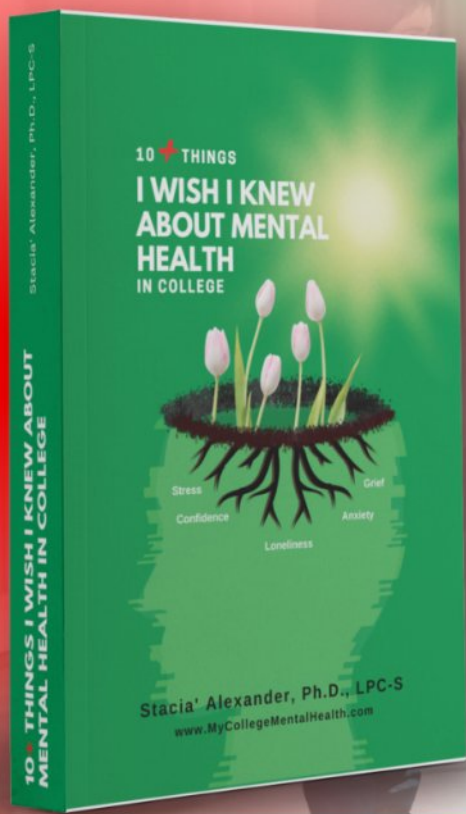


Top- Above Publishers Bobby Henry Sr. and Stewart Curet enjoy meal.
Bottom- Clearly a content group at Kitchen+Kocktails.



Publishers enjoy good food, ambiance and people.

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DR. STACIA' ALEXANDER, LPC
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**QUIT
PLAYIN'**

**BY VINCENT
L. HALL**

The Dallas Morning News headline that waylaid me wasn't funny at all. It read: "Defeated Republican calls Texas state government 'the most corrupt ever! He calls Gov. Greg Abbott a liar and blames two billionaires who, he says, control the state.'"

It was a revelation from an unexpected source that threw me. Suddenly, all I could think about was Pastor Joel Osteen of Houston.

So, let me introduce this thesis the way Osteen jump-starts a sermon. "I like to start off with something funny."

It works so well for him that I decided to try the artful mechanism.

Like Joel's jokes, you have probably heard it, but humor me anyway. Laugh with me, because the state of the State of Texas is bad enough to make God cry. (Remember John 11:35 Jesus wept?)

"Three preachers were driving down the road when they missed a turn and went into the ditch. As they pulled themselves together, a drunk pulled up and asked if they were all right.

"Oh, yes, Jesus is with us," one replied.

The drunk thought that over for a minute. He looked around and said, "Well, you'd better let him get in with me; you're going to kill him!"

God is still alive, but the national Republican Party is trying its best to kill him, and Texas leads the nation in attempts.

Listen to the News' opening.

"After his stunning defeat in the recent Republican primary, State Rep. Glenn Rogers, R-Graford unloaded on the corruption of Texas government that reaches, he says, to "the highest level."

In a post-election column, he submitted to newspapers in his House district, Rogers, headlined it with an obscure quote from Davy Crockett — "I'll wear no man's collar."

History will prove Gov. Abbott is a liar," wrote the man who represents Palo Pinto, Parker, and Stephens counties.



He continued, "Our current state government is the most corrupt ever and is bought by a few radical billionaires seeking to destroy public education" and also "create a theocracy."

Bebe Moore Campbell wrote a bestselling book in 1995 entitled "Your Blues ain't like Mine." A "divine" extrapolation of her thesis could imply that "Your God ain't like Mine."

Sadly, Texas Republicans and Trump acolytes talking about God today, but it doesn't sound like the God I know.

Far too many of our parents are oblivious to the influx of money and a barrage of lies and innuendos targeting the public school system as we know it. Rogers exposed the fact that it was being bankrolled by two Texas billionaires, but that's not all of it.

The whole idea of "school choice and vouchers" are veiled but virulent attempts at a "hostile takeover." There are trillions of dollars in profit to be made by wresting power from the public-school districts as we know them today.

The bloated, bigoted, and bottomless 1%ers have little shame and even less interest in educating your children.

One of the question-and-answer exchanges should attract your attention and engage your curiosity.

Q: You wrote that aside from privatizing public schools, the billionaires want to turn America into a theocracy.

A: Rogers: Lord knows we need God to-

day with all the problems we have. But we don't need these radical Christian nationalists' beliefs that are really dangerous to democracy and religious freedom.

You could make the conjecture that the Christian nationals want to return to the homogenous, segregated schools of the old South, and that is partly true. You could also argue that they want to erase all the signs and sins of "White" history, and that is reasonable.

The big-business billionaires who showed their hand during the Trump administration are no less determined to "privatize" education and cash in on the windfall.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos didn't just stop leading the charge for these bloodsuckers when she left office. This group of educational carpetbaggers and "White Jesus" pimps are still at it.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Glenn Rogers for pointing toward the filth that Texas Republicans try to keep swept under the capitol rug.

I'm not sure who their God is, but they are going to kill our God if we don't stop them.

Y'all better Quit Playin'! Not even Joel Osteen can find a joke for this crowd!



Vincent L. Hall is an author, activist, award-winning columnist and a lifelong Drapetomaniac!



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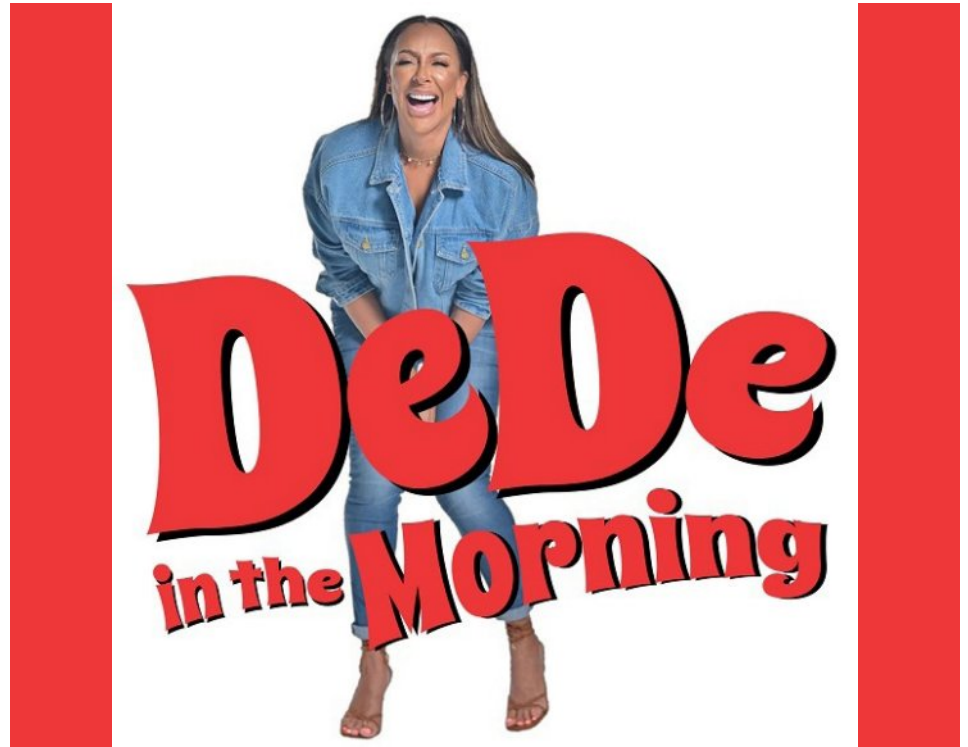
fights food insecurity by feeding approximately 500 families in the metroplex.

For the third consecutive year, Witherite Law Group and 1-800-TruckWreck are partnering with Dallas radio station K104-FM to feed approximately 500 Dallas-Fort Worth-area families. Millions of Americans struggle with food insecurity, and North Texas has the fourth-highest number of food-insecure people nationwide with over 630,000 facing hunger. Witherite Law Group and 1-800-TruckWreck are directly addressing this challenge by providing the wherewithal for local families to have a plentiful meal this Easter.

Witherite Law Group, along with DeDe McGuire and Cat Daddy of K104-FM, will host the Honey Baked Ham gift card giveaway from 10 a.m. to noon CDT on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Honey Baked Ham, 4201 S. Cooper St., Arlington, TX, 76015. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required, and gift cards will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Five hundred families—200 more families than in 2023—will each receive one \$100 Honey Baked Ham gift card. The gift cards are valued at \$50,000 total—a \$20,000 increase from last year's Easter giveaway.

“Hunger impacts people year-round, and we're working to ease the burden during a holiday revered by many. We want our neighbors to enjoy coveted time with family without worrying about how or if they will have a decent meal,” said Amy Witherite, founder of Witherite Law Group and 1-800-TruckWreck. “Our goal is to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community, giving them something money cannot buy: peace of mind and time with loved ones on a day that represents hope and faith.”

Over 95 countries around the globe celebrate Easter with varying traditions; family time and meals are a staple for most. In the U.S., Easter dinner traditionally consists of glazed ham, various side dishes and desserts. However, one in eight North Texas residents do not have



access to sufficient food or food of adequate quality to meet their basic needs and, therefore, face hunger each day. In addition to poverty, unemployment and low wages, inflation, a lack of funding for



food programs and expensive housing costs all contribute to the lack of access to food. Witherite Law Group and K104-FM are helping Dallas-Fort Worth-area families by offsetting the cost of Easter holiday meals.

“Statistically, our neighbors, friends,

colleagues and family members are struggling to eat each day. That is unfathomable in a progressive city like ours, but the numbers don't lie,” said Dede McGuire, host of the nationally syndicated radio show, DeDe in the Morning. “We're so grateful for our partnership with Witherite Law Group—a pinnacle in our community—to fulfill this need and do our part to fight food insecurity.”

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

Witherite Law Group Social Media Links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WitheriteLaw>

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**FAITHFUL
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**BY DR. FROSWA
BOOKER-DREW**

When I was a child, my mom would always warn me about blowing up bridges that I may need to cross later. I didn't quite understand what she meant but as an adult, I get it. In a nutshell, these quotes were life lessons, they are nuggets of wisdom. I interpret this one to mean that if you treat relationships poorly, you may need them later and can't go back.

Some bridges are not meant to be utilized. If you decide to take a route you were never supposed to take, it's not fair to leave damage behind either. You made a decision that didn't work for you but you've now made it difficult for the next person who may need that route to their destiny. The next person is suffering the consequences of a bad decision made by someone else.

Some bridges may not be a part of your journey now because you may believe they can not support you. You believe you deserve to take a much more established route. Yet, as that bridge is fortified, it becomes stronger and sturdier. There will come a time when you may need that support and the bridge has become a thoroughfare for others but has no room for you.

Relationships are a form of currency. So many people are not mindful of how relationships are like a bank account. You must make deposits by the way you care for and grow relationships. It's work. You can also deplete your account with others by making too many withdrawals. So many of us are dealing with collateral damage by others because of previous relationships that did not care for the person's heart well.

Remember, your destiny is connected to others. We need to treat people well if they are CEOs or custodians. The Bible is clear: "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from." (Acts 10:34-36 MSG) We need to adopt this mindset as well in our interactions.

You don't have to like everyone but treat people the way you want to be treated. "Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get." (Matthew 7:12 MSG)

Bridges connect to expressways. You could be delaying your progress due to traveling life's roads haphazardly. It's important to make sure that you steward relationships well. You never know when you might need assistance. You could be missing your destiny helpers because you have dismissed or ignored them.

We spend so much time focusing on money but it does not exist in isolation. Money and resources are connected to relationships. You don't have a money problem—you have a relationship problem because you are not in a community with individuals who can give you information or connections to help you.

We often equate blessings with financial rewards but that's a narrow perspective. People can be a blessing to our lives and we can miss so many opportunities to change our trajectory if we only treat people with kindness and respect. God doesn't just expect us to steward money. God expects us to care for people well. We want the financial blessing but we don't realize that if we are not faithful in our dealings with others, we limit our possibilities.

This scripture is often applied to money but I believe it is applicable in our relationships. Matthew 25:23 says, "His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." How can God bless us with more people to help us along the way to reach our destiny when we do not value the ones currently on our path? We are missing the joy of the Lord and the increase because we have not been faithful in what we've been given.

Remember, your destiny is connected to others. We need to treat people well if they are CEOs or custodians. The Bible is clear: "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from." (Acts 10:34-36 MSG) We need to adopt this mindset as well in our interactions.

This African proverb sums it up: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

People need People.

Blowing up bridges can create a lot of damage.

Dr. Froswa' Booker-Drew is the Founder and CEO of Soulstice Consultancy, specializing as a Partnership Broker and Leadership Expert for companies and organizations to thrive with measurable and meaningful impact. She also is the VP of Community Affairs and Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas.

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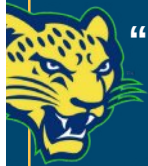
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Whales Are Dying and the Fossil Fuel Industry is Lying



**OUR
VOICES**

**BY
BEN JEALOUS**

Whoever would have thought fossil fuel industry front groups would make whales and other marine species a cultural wedge issue? However, thanks to a deception campaign targeting wind energy that's exactly where we find ourselves.

The Marine Mammal Stranding Center in New Jersey rescues and rehabilitates live beached animals and performs necropsies on the remains of dead ones to pinpoint their causes of death. Sheila Dean, one of the group's founders, describes how the rampant misinformation connecting whale deaths to sonar used in surveying the seafloor for offshore wind farms is making her job more difficult. And it is distracting people from what is really killing the whales: vessel strikes, climate change, plastic pollution, and entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris.

"I've been doing this for 47 years. We had a lot of whale deaths in 2023 but there have been years we've had more. In 2013 we had a lot of whales and dolphins washing up. Our necropsy data show a wide variety of possible causes of death, including blunt force trauma from suspected vessel strikes. If the sonar from mapping was killing marine life, our shores likely would have been littered with hundreds, if not thousands of dead and dying marine mammals."

The frenzy that has been whipped up against offshore wind energy has thrust Dean's organization into the storm. Anti-wind activists and the people they have duped are demanding close examination of whale's ears to show signs of damage from sonar. But most beached whale remains are in an advanced state of decomposition, making that impossible.

Where there have been beached animals that have not been too decomposed, mostly dolphins, the MMSC and its partners have gone the extra mile and incurred great cost for CT scans and lab analysis. The results? No evidence of auditory trauma.

Scientists have been clear. Disruptions in the whales' feeding patterns, water salinity, and currents are likely the result of climate change. Dean points out the whales are following their food source, which is what brings them into the shipping lanes.

Finding no evidence that sonar mapping for offshore wind farms is connected to the whale deaths, groups like Dean's are being targeted as if they are part of some cover up fueled by the wind industry. Dean is clear that her organization takes no money from the wind industry.

Meanwhile, the real problems behind the increase in whale deaths go unaddressed. And with climate change perhaps the largest overriding problem, and our transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy the solution... well, it is not hard to see how this is by design.

Lies and deceit have always been the stock-in-trade of the fossil fuel industry's public relations and lobbying efforts. Back in 2009 when I was national president of the NAACP, the lobbying firm for a major coal industry group faked a letter to Congress from our Albemarle-Charlottesville chapter in Virginia to stop a climate bill. The letter even used NAACP letterhead and declared opposition to the American Clean Energy and Security Act, a bill we actually supported!

So let us follow the money behind the rising tide of local front groups opposing offshore wind development. The organizing efforts and litigation come from organizations with benign names like the

American Coalition for Ocean Protection and Save Right Whales.

Those organizations link back to dark

money groups like the Texas Public Policy Foundation, the Caesar Rodney Institute, and the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow. And those groups are funded by fossil fuel interests like Exxon-Mobil and the Charles Koch Foundation. Major players include operatives who have been on the forefront of climate denial for years and involved in previous political smear jobs like the Swiftboat Veterans for Truth.

These groups opposing wind energy are not just screaming their lies into the wind. They are shifting public opinion. A Monmouth poll shows public support for New Jersey's offshore wind projects has dropped from 76 percent to 54 percent in the wake of the disinformation campaign around whale deaths.

The Northeast as a region has been among the most forward-thinking when it comes to the use and development of renewable energy. If these groups are successful in blocking the development of renewable energy adoption and production in the Northeast, it does not bode well for the rest of the country. And the fossil fuel industry knows it.

We are already seeing Big Oil and Gas target solar with blatant misinformation targeted at communities across the country. A recent NPR report detailed how one group connected to polluters and climate deniers, the so-called Citizens for Responsible Solar, "has helped local groups fighting solar projects in at least 10 states including Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania."

So, if it has not already, misleading campaigns of the fossil fuel industry could be coming to a town near you. Remember if you see a group opposing clean energy, it is usually a good idea to follow the money behind the message.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way and Professor of Practice in the Africana Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches leadership.

Taking care of Grandmother!

Texas Capital, Trinity Habitat for Humanity and History Maker Homes join Forces to Rebuild Home of Dr. Opal Lee, Grandmother of Juneteenth

Special to Texas Metro News

FORT WORTH, TX, - Texas Capital, Trinity Habitat for Humanity and HistoryMaker Homes have joined forces to rebuild the home of Dr. Opal Lee, the “Grandmother of Juneteenth.”

The official Wall Raising Ceremony for her new home took place on Thursday, March 21, 2024, in Fort Worth, TX and is made possible through contributions from the Texas Capital Foundation; the philanthropic arm of Texas Capital, HistoryMaker Homes and Trinity Habitat for Humanity.

As a young girl in 1939, Dr. Lee watched her family home burn to the ground. Never losing hope of someday owning her family’s lot, Dr. Lee inquired about purchasing the lot from Trinity Habitat for Humanity, who generously gave it to her for \$10.

Texas Capital learned of the need to build Dr. Lee a new home and reached out to HistoryMaker Homes, its longtime residential home-building partner, to propose involvement in this historic project.

To Dr. Lee’s excitement, HistoryMaker Homes generously offered to build the home at no cost to Dr. Lee. Recently, she visited the HistoryMaker Homes design center where she selected all of the flooring, fixtures and lighting for her planned home.

Texas Capital Foundation is providing funding for furnishings for the home, and



Dr. Opal Lee with her dream team.

Photo: DFW Video

both Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes employees will volunteer at the wall-raising. Jon Larson, Texas Capital’s Head of Homebuilder and Community Finance, Nelson Mitchell, CEO of HistoryMaker Homes, and Gage



Dr. Opal Lee
Photo: DFW Video

Yager, CEO of Trinity Habitat for Humanity gave remarks at the ceremony.

When reflecting on history, Yager, CEO of Trinity Habitat for Humanity said, “We’re here to partner with a friend to build a home and in a little way erase a big negative from

all those years ago.”

This project is made possible by the giving hearts of many. The collaboration between Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes is a testament to the collective commitment to giving back and supporting meaningful projects in the Fort Worth metroplex.

“Dr. Opal Lee has given so much to our community and our nation, and has been a tireless, lifelong advocate for racial equity and justice. We are proud to be able to give something back to her to honor her life’s work,” said Effie Dennison, Texas Capital’s head of Community Development and president of the Texas Capital Foundation.

No ribbon cuttings here! Trinity Habitat for Humanity, Texas Capital and HistoryMaker Homes celebrated the wall raising of Opal Lee’s new home by cutting a 2x6 wood stud with a miter saw.

“Our goal with every home we build is to create a place

where owners can feel a sense of pride, and we are deeply honored to be part of such a meaningful project,” said Nelson Mitchell, CEO of HistoryMaker Homes. “Dr. Lee represents the very best of our community and our nation in her determination for racial justice, and there is no better way to express our profound gratitude than through her new home.

“Alongside our more than 50 partners and trades, our entire team at HistoryMaker is proud to work together on this momentous home build.”

A member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Dr. Lee dedicated decades of her life to educating people about the significance of Juneteenth, which commemorates the end of slavery in the United States and marks the day that enslaved Texans learned of their freedom.

Dr. Lee worked to ensure Juneteenth’s national recognition, culminating in its designation as a federal holiday in 2021.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County, Comerica Bank to Host Prom Dress Shopping Event

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County in partnership with Comerica Bank will host a prom dress shopping event from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23 at the Boys & Girls Clubs' Plano branch (1111 H Avenue; Plano, Texas 75074).

All Collin County area teens, who need assistance attending prom, are welcome.

Six Dallas-area Comerica banking centers collected 380 new or gently used, formal dresses as well as accessories from fellow colleagues, customers and the community last month, benefiting new partner the Boys & Girls Club of Collin County, Dallas CASA and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas.

Overall, Comerica has donated 6,590 dresses to these organizations and other community partners in the last nine years.

This year's prom dress drive season will conclude with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County's prom shopping event.

Members of Comerica's North Texas Women's Forum will assist with the event, helping club members and other Collin County area teens make their prom dreams come true.

In honor of Comerica's

175th anniversary, the bank has partnered with Project Beauty to provide one teen from each benefitting non-profit with a complimentary makeover (full hair and makeup), a \$175 value/per teen, on the night of their respective proms.

Project Beauty also donated 60 dresses to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County from its annual prom dress drive in partners Legacy West.

In addition, Project Beauty also is providing Thrive Causemetics swag bags to teens at next Saturday's event.

Project Beauty's mission is to spread empowerment through the universal language of beauty by helping women build confidence, hope and provide support and encouragement for each other.

WHO: Collin County Area Teens, including Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County Members

WHAT: Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County Prom Dress Shopping Event

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 23

WHERE: Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County - Plano Branch

1111 H Avenue; Plano, Texas 75074



Scan me

Cheryl Smith
Publisher



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION





Living for Zachary HEART SCREENING

The "Living for Zachary Heart Screening" is a special screening program created by Baylor Scott & White The Heart Hospital – Plano for youth ages 12-22 that can help detect heart abnormalities that may lead to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA).



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WHERE

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A Living for Zachary Heart Screening is not a substitute for a thorough exam and consultation with a physician and does not provide clearance for participation in athletics. While the screening seeks to detect conditions that may lead to SCA, it does not guarantee all risks of SCA will be detected. Contact your pediatrician immediately if your child is currently experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest symptoms. A parent or guardian must be present for youth under 18 years of age during the Living for Zachary Heart Screening. The Living for Zachary Heart Screening DOES NOT provide clearance for participation in athletics. It is a supplement to pre-participation athletic screenings targeted for causes of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). DOES NOT detect, predict risk, or diagnose any heart abnormalities related to COVID-19 or the COVID-19 vaccine. Contact your child's pediatrician if you have questions or concerns related to COVID-19.

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Call issued to Support Black Businesses

Buy Black!

By Cheryl Smith
Texas Metro News

When Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, of Friendship-West Baptist Church, announced 100 Days of Buying Black in acknowledging the 100th Commemoration of the Tulsa Race Massacre, we joined the movement. December 31, 2021 marked 100 days of featuring Black Businesses. and we decided that the struggle continues and we must also. So enjoy reading about more Black-owned businesses and please support.



Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III

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Maiden named Comerica Team Manager

From Staff Reports

Comerica Bank has named Tim Maiden Senior Vice President, Group Manager for its Southern Dallas Business Banking Team. He will report to Corey Bailey, Executive Vice President, Executive Director, Middle Market & Business Banking.

Maiden will lead a team of commercial bankers that deliver tailored solutions to middle-market and business banking clients across various industries. He will serve the southern sector of Dallas by cultivating key local relationships, finding access to capital solutions for underserved entrepreneurs and offering customized lending solutions that meet clients' specific needs.

"Tim is highly regarded in the banking industry and the Southern Dallas community," Bailey said. "He has fostered robust relationships in this largely underserved market, and his expertise in the footprint will be instrumental in leading Comerica as we continue to heighten our support for customers in the southern sector."

Maiden brings more than two decades of banking industry experience to Comerica. He has a proven track record of driving sales, credit analysis, business banking, commercial real estate, and nonprofit lending. Previously, Maiden was a Senior Vice President, Director of Market Devel-



Tim Maiden

opment for Simmons Bank. Prior to that, he was a Senior Vice President, Community Leader for Frost Bank.

He received his bachelor's degree in sociology and master's in economics and communications from Texas Christian University. He has been named a D Magazine "2020 Leadership Excellence: Small Nonprofit" honoree, Dallas Business Journal "2019 Minority Business Leader Award" honoree, and NAACP "President's Award

Recipient" for the Dallas chapter, among many other achievements.

Additionally, Maiden has taught courses on credit analysis and business ethics at the University of North Texas - Dallas as an adjunct professor.

He co-founded the Maiden Foundation with his twin brother and serves as a board member and mentor for several nonprofit organizations that support youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and social services.

Tommy's Girl opens couture hair house



Tommy's Girl grand opening.



Anita Hawkins, Tommy's Girl Spokesmodel

Bold, beautiful and sophisticated....that's a Tommy's Girl! Luxurious hair enhancements, fashion and couture collide at Tommy's Girl Hair Co.

The first of its kind boutique celebrated its Grand Opening at the flagship location 6111 Greenville, Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75206.

Born out of the desire for the same high-end retail experience shoppers receive at top fashion houses like Versace, Chanel and Louis Vuitton, Tommy's Girl provides upper echelon customer service that aligns with the clients' investments in looking their absolute best!

Quality human hair enhancements can cost thousands of dollars to achieve a natural and effortlessly beautiful appearance.

Tommy's Girl expert stylists work with clients to ensure their expectations are exceeded with each visit and deliver unique hair experiences tailored to each clients' needs, fashion sense and personal style.

"Tommy's Girl is an elevated hair shopping experience," says model and social media influencer Anita Hawkins. "They have raised the standards and completely redefined the industry. The diversity in



their products creates the opportunity for every woman to experience the true luxury she deserves. And we all know that once you've had the best, nothing less will ever do!

Tommy's Girl is an attitude! Clients are classy, insatiable high achievers who value mindset and character over the superficial and enjoy a very specific lifestyle.

Creative and innovative, she is aspirational and inspirational to everyone who knows her and those who want to know her better!

Not only does the boutique carry the highest quality human hair available, but the location is part of the Tommy's Girl experience with deep amber notes of its signature fragrance greeting each customer upon entry, white marble flooring and beauty advisors who all come together to create an exceptionally luxurious experience from start to finish.

The boutique also features a Beauty Room for waxing, brows, Botox and mas-

sage and an Elevation Room for fashion stylists, hair stylists and make-up artists.

This B-n-B, Beauty and Bookings, business model allows health and beauty industry professionals to secure space to service their clientele on an as needed basis while having access to the most exclusive hair brands in the world.

This bold and innovative step in the hair and beauty space has Tommy's Girl uniquely poised to become the number one provider of luxury hair products and services on a global scale.

According to Hawkins, "We foresee a future where Tommy's Girl is not only the choice of distinctive women of style but also top celebrity stylists who will look to us for the perfect finishing touch for their clients' Oscar and Emmy looks, and fashion designers around the world from Balmain to Balenciaga will only accentuate their runway creations with Tommy's Girl. When nothing but the best will do, it's Tommy's Girl for every woman and every occasion!"

Under the Biden-Harris Save Plan \$138 Billion Loan Debt Canceled



OUR
VOICES

BY
ROGER CALDWELL

The Biden-Harris administration on February 21, 2024, announced the cancellation of more than \$1 billion in student loans debt for over 150,000 additional borrowers across the country. This move brings the debt relief total to \$138 billion for nearly 4 million Americans.

Delivering on his promises, the president on day one has taken action on the student loan crisis. The Supreme Court has done everything to stop and prevent student borrowers from receiving loan forgiveness, but Biden refused to take no for an answer.

There is a crisis in America and many residents were not able to buy a home or take a vacation. President Biden and Vice President Harris are focused on working to alleviate the crushing burden of student loans to rob Peter to pay Paul. As the interest rates continue to grow, you take one step forward and two backward. With the new SAVE plan from Biden's administration lives are being changed, and some Americans are able to breathe again.

The Biden-Harris Administration believes that education beyond high school will unlock doors to opportunity. Biden and

Harris have been working to fix the broken student loan system, and make college more affordable. On August 22, 2023, the administration announced the official launch of, "The Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan."

This is the most affordable repayment plan ever created for college/university students. The SAVE plan is an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan that calculates payments based on a borrower's income and family size. The SAVE plan will cut many borrowers' monthly payments to zero and will save other borrowers around \$1,000 per year. It will also prevent balances from growing because of unpaid interest and will get more borrowers closer to forgiveness faster.

The Administration estimates that over 20 million borrowers could benefit from the SAVE plan. "Today I'm proud to announce a new program called the SAVE plan. It's the most affordable student loan plan ever. Borrowers can sign up by visiting StudentAid.gov/Save," says President Biden.

The SAVE plan will cut payments on undergraduate loans in half. Borrowers with undergraduate loans will have their payments reduced from 10% to 5% of their discretionary income. Those who have undergraduate and graduate loans will pay a weighted average between 5% and 10% of their income based upon the original principal bal-

ances of their loan.

This is very complicated and many Americans and especially Black people don't know the SAVE program exist. The Biden-Harris administration has done a poor job, getting the information to the masses of undergraduate, graduate students.

Many Americans don't know that the Biden team across the country has brought the debt relief to a total of \$138 billion for nearly 4 million students. This should be a major news story for the news media, and the SAVE plan and cancel student debt should be one of Biden's major accomplishments. Millions of Americans are free from student loan debt, because of President Biden.

Many of these people took out loans less than \$12,000 and have been paying them back for more than a decade. No one making less than about \$15.00 per hour should be required to make a student loan payment, and if you find yourself struggling to make a payment, communicate with your loan service.

Remember there are 43.6 million borrowers who owe a collective \$1.77 trillion, for money they borrowed to go to school. Stay ahead and create a plan that works for you, your family and your budget.

Roger Caldwell, On Point Media Group, a marketing and public relations firm. Graduate of Howard University, author, political writer, businessman.



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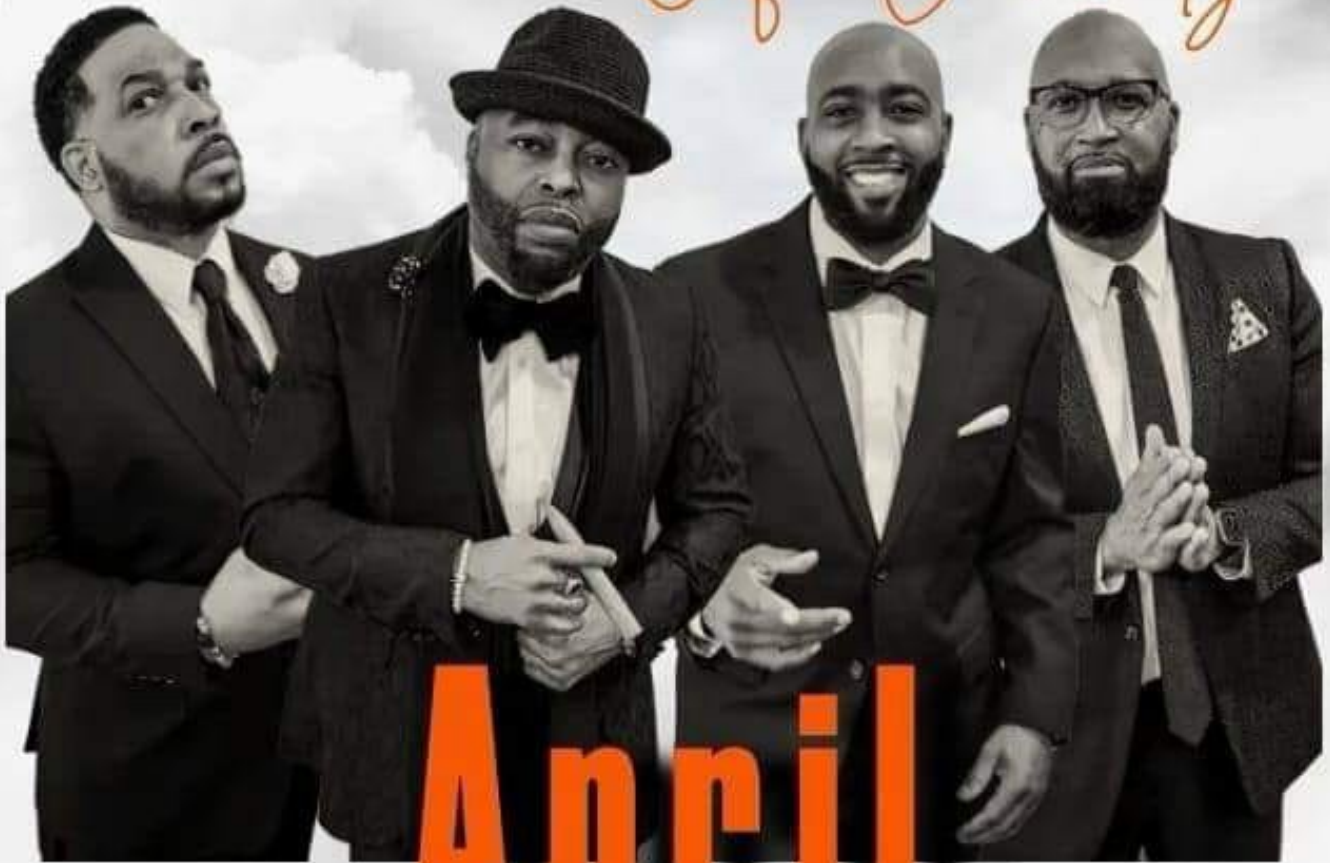
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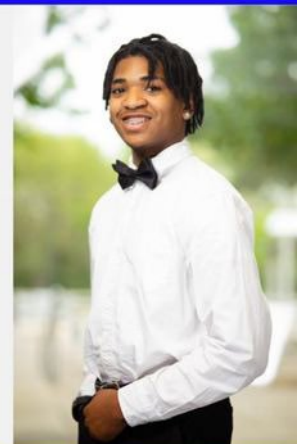


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SCOTUS Upholds Racist Texas Anti-Immigration Law SB 4

AUSTIN, Texas – The U.S. Supreme Court has yet again overturned precedent and upheld Texas' anti-immigration bill SB 4 – which has been under scrutiny by the DOJ and immigrant rights advocates since Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed it into law last December.

SB 4 adds improper border entry as a new criminal offense that would place tens of thousands of undocumented Texas residents and migrants in the state criminal justice system. SB 4 will empower the Texas judicial system to deport vulnerable migrants whose only crime is seeking a better life for their families and the American Dream.

Texas Democratic Party Chair Gilberto Hinojosa issued the following statement:

“Let me be unequivocally clear: MAGA Republicans' SB 4 isn't about community safety – it's about enabling DPS to target neighborhoods and imprison people for the sake of Fox News headlines. This inhumane border strategy will now force American citizens to carry passports in their own neighborhoods and enforce mass deportations of migrant women and children – all while overburdening local law enforcement.

“Right now, Texas Democrats from Austin to Washington are laser-focused on tackling southern border security with evidence-based solutions like the Bipartisan Security Bill and forming a Border Task Force in Congress. The MAGA Republican strategy to turn our southern border communities into a political battleground is cruel, shortsighted and divisive – undermining the very fabric of our country's fundamental freedoms.”

State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas), also shared his response to the Supreme Court's decision.

Without question, this legislation carries with it the ability to codify racial profiling by giving law enforcement the pro-



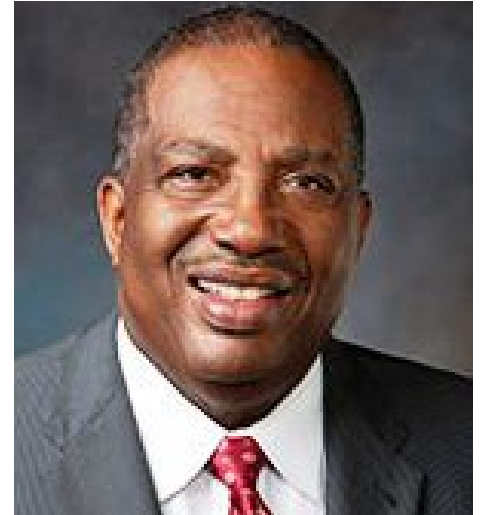
Chair Gilberto Hinojosa
Texas Democratic Party

verbal green light to target with impunity, anyone who in their opinion, looks illegal.

SB 4 gives law enforcement the power to arrest a person if they suspect that person is an undocumented immigrant. I ask what are the factors that could amount to reasonable suspicion? Could it be the color of a person's skin, the language they speak, or the communities where they live or are passing through?

During debate on this bill before the Senate during the fourth special session of the legislature last year, there was robust discussion on what would constitute probable cause to allow an arrest under SB 4. The truth is that what constitutes probable cause is up to each and every individual law enforcement officer in the State of Texas at the time they engage in a traffic stop or other police and citizen interaction.

Let me be clear, SB 4 does NOT provide a mechanism for police to determine reasonable suspicion regarding who is and or who is not here legally. In fact, the majority of those voting in favor of this law voted against clarifying how police could determine probable cause or reasonable suspicion regarding enforcement of this now-enacted law!



Sen. Royce West

Questions remain at every judicial level as to whether SB 4 stands in violation of 14th Amendment equal protection provisions. And of even more glaring constitutional concern is that SB 4 is in direct conflict with the federal government's jurisdiction over immigration enforcement, consistent with the Supreme Court's 2012 ruling in *Arizona v. United States*.

Because this law does not prescribe probable cause or reasonable suspicion for arresting or detaining an individual, persons in this state can be subject to disparate and different policies and practices regarding who is legally allowed to be here. Enforcement activities may vary by area, from urban, to rural, to the border region.

No one deserves to be treated differently by officers simply because of the color of their skin. Senate Bill 4 sets the stage for law enforcement to unduly view those who are brown through a lens of suspicion.

Texas needs real solutions to address the problems at our southern border, and Senate Bill 4 creates nothing more than a pathway to confusion that could result in the arrest and detention of innocent Texans.

What Dallas' \$1.25 billion bond program covers

Early voting starts April 22 for the May 4 election. The city hasn't yet released a final list of projects planned to be paid for with the bond money.

By **Everton Bailey Jr.**

Almost a month before Dallas voters can begin casting early ballots for or against a \$1.25 billion bond program, they still don't have a final list of projects the bond money could cover.

Dallas city officials had said they planned to make the full project list available by the end of February. But it remains unknown when the itemized list of streets, parks, housing projects and other infrastructure upgrades will be made public. Early voting is April 22-30, and election day is May 4.

Jennifer Nicewander, director of the city's bond and construction management office, and Robert Perez, an assistant city manager who oversees the bond office and other city infrastructure and transportation-related departments, didn't respond to requests for comment Monday about when the list would be public. Perez told the City Council in February that the goal was to have the list finalized by the end of that month.

City officials had planned to host town hall meetings to educate voters about the bond plans ahead of the election, but they have scrapped those plans.

In a March 8 memo to the City Council, Perez said the city-sanctioned meetings were being canceled after hearing from the city attorney's office. The office did not order that the meetings to be canceled, but said state law prohibits public money from being used for political advertising or for

communications that could likely influence a voter's decision.

"Any informational townhall meetings would be restricted to the ballot language, proposition description, proposition amount and the payback



An aerial view of downtown Dallas

Photo: Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer

amount for that proposition with no reference to individual projects," Perez's memo said. "As a result of the project listing discussion restriction, the informational town halls for the 2024 bond program have been cancelled."

City Attorney Tammy Palomino explained in a Feb. 14 memo to the City Council and other officials that state law bans public resources from being used to advocate for the passage or failure of a ballot measure. She said the law was not intended to prevent city councils from discussing whether to place a bond measure on the ballot, but does not make clear what other types of uses are allowed beyond that.

"And, because the election code is silent as to when use of public resources to advocate on behalf of a measure, or a poten-

tial measure, are impermissible, our office cautions against any use of public resources at any time to advocate on behalf of or in opposition to an item that could become a measure on an upcoming ballot," Palomino's memo said.

The brunt of educating voters about the \$1.25 billion bond program could fall to a privately-funded campaign launched in support of the propositions. A political action committee called 2024 Dallas Bond Campaign has registered with the Texas Ethics Commission but has not yet reported details about its funding or donors.

Attorney Tim Powers, a former chair of the city's ethics advisory commission who now co-chairs the bond campaign, said the group is planning a public outreach effort that will include mailers, social media posts, yard signage and a website. He said he believes the group will have a "broad coalition of supporters," will aim to raise about \$1 million for the campaign and has raised about half that amount.

"We have a very narrow win-

dow of time, but we think we have an appropriate window of time to get the message out that we need to get out," Powers said. "We're not aware that there's any organized opposition. But we hope we're clear enough with what we're able to communicate to convince everybody to support this for the long-term best interest of Dallas."

Dallas voters will be asked to approve 10 propositions in the election that would allow the city to borrow a total of \$1.25 billion for improvements to roads, parks and libraries, as well as other projects focused on housing infrastructure, homelessness, public safety and cultural arts facilities, flood protection and storm draining, economic development and city information technology.

The biggest chunk of bond money, more than \$521 million, will go to street- and transportation-related projects, followed by almost \$346 million for park and recreation projects and \$90 million for police and fire facilities.

Powers said he believed the full project list will be available by next week. He said the campaign is working with several civic organizations and has the endorsements of Mayor Eric Johnson and four past mayors: Mike Rawlings, Tom Leppert, Laura Miller and Ron Kirk.

Read more at www.https://myimessenger.com

This story, originally published in *The Dallas Morning News*, is reprinted as part of a collaborative partnership between *The Dallas Morning News* and *Texas Metro News*. The partnership seeks to boost coverage of Dallas' communities of color, particularly in southern Dallas.

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- Children's Health:
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Pediatric Cardiologist
- Living for Zachary:
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Heart Health & Stroke Prevention
- Paint & Plant
- Fitness Demos
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**DR. JOHN E.
WARREN**

We, the citizens of the United States of America, as well as our fellow citizens of the world, are living in a period of unprecedented conflict. While the word “hatred” is rarely used or mentioned, it is the source of the worst among us toward others. In this country, founded upon the melting pot idea that there is room for everyone, we find people continuing to be attacked based on their race, color, religion, nationality and appearance. It is timely that two of the world’s greatest religions would intersect this month with a shared idea that for ages has been the solution to hate and its destruction.

The Christian observance of Lent and the Muslim observance of Ramadan are intersecting with a shared religious practice known as “fasting”. The Christian observance calls for giving up certain foods or practices for a 40 day period as a symbolic sharing with Christ in his suffering. Lent is calculated based on the spring equinox.

Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which follows a lunar cycle. As a result, the dates for Ramadan change every year, and the period of fasting is for one month. Muslims fast from dawn until sunset for the entire month. The fast is broken each evening with a meal called “iftar”. Fasting is one of the five Pillars of Islam, which are the foundations of Muslim life. Christian fasting in contrast, as established by the Catholic Church, leads up to Easter which celebrates the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.

The importance of this discussion rests with the fact that the concept of fasting in both religions is to bring one closer to God. For the Christian, prayer and self denial during this period seeks to draw one closer to God by reflecting on one’s life and conduct in regards to others. Muslims believe that Ramadan is a time of heightened spirituality during which they can purify their souls and seek forgiveness for their sins.

It sounds like this is a good time for all of America to engage in some prayer and fasting for a nation at odds with itself and for a people engaged in hatred and vio-

lence against others. What greater way to stop the hate than through prayer and fasting, regardless as to whether one is Christian or Muslim or any other faith. The concept of fasting with both religions appears to be in line with the scripture from the Bible in 2 Chronicles 7:14

We as a nation have an opportunity during this period to set in motion the healing we all so desperately need. Prayer and Fasting have changed the course of individuals, people and nations and it is not too late for us. Let’s get about the business of Stopping The Hate.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the California State Library in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs as part of the Stop the Hate program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to <https://www.cavshate.org//>

Dr. John E. Warren is publisher of The San Diego Voice and Viewpoint.

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Six years after Dallas approved monument to racial violence victims, it's finally happened

Next to downtown's Grassy Knoll, new public artwork provides another vital history lesson about our city's ugly past.



The public artwork "Shadow Lines," by artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee, will be dedicated March 26 at Martyrs Park, located just west of the Sixth Floor Museum in downtown Dallas. Photo: Juan Figueroa / Staff Photographer



Recent heavy rains have left much of Martyrs Park muddy and full of deep puddles. Park department officials hope newly planted grass will take hold before the dedication of the "Shadow Lines" artwork. Photo: Juan Figueroa / Staff Photographer

By Sharon Grigsby

Adjacent to the Sixth Floor Museum and the Grassy Knoll sits another patch of sacred ground with its own historically consequential story.

It took Dallas decades to fully face President John F. Kennedy's assassination. It's taken far longer to acknowledge the murders that occurred about 100 years earlier — just on the other side of where the Triple Underpass would eventually stand.

In 1860, three enslaved Black men — Patrick Jenkins, Cato Miller and the Rev. Samuel Smith — were lynched at this site, alongside the original path of the Trinity River. They were hanged after specious accusations concerning their part in setting a downtown fire, and their deaths became part of an infamous reign of terror led by white businessmen during which enslaved individuals were rounded up and tortured.

At long last, Dallas will formally dedicate a sculp-

ture on the site next Tuesday that honors these three men and all other local victims of lynching and racial violence between 1853 and 1920.

"Shadow Lines," the sundial-inspired weathering steel sculpture, is the work of artists Shane Allbritton and Norman Lee. At one end of its semicircular wall is a poem written by former Dallas resident and poet laureate of Virginia Tim Seibles about this spot and its brutal history.

In early 2018, in the midst of the debate over removal of Confederate statues, City Council members expressed interest in a memorial to victims of racial violence. George Keaton Jr., founder of Remembering Black Dallas, persevered until his death in December 2022 to turn the idea into action. The Dallas County Justice Initiative, with Ed Gray at the helm, and Remembering Black Dallas finished the job.

The sculpture sits in a pocket of city land known as Martyrs Park. It's not an ide-

al place for a contemplative green space, trapped between the Triple Underpass and the access ramp to Interstate 35E and deafened by highway traffic and the Trinity Railway Express rumbling overhead.

It's no mystery why the dedication ceremony is taking place at the Sixth Floor Museum before the ribbon-cutting at the sculpture site. Hearing the speeches would be impossible at Martyrs Park.

But Gray, like Keaton before him, is steadfast about this being the right location.

"To the people who ask, 'Why did we build this here?' This is where it occurred," Gray told me. "We can't change what's there now, but it remains historic and sacred."

I took my first close look at the sculpture Saturday and was pleasantly surprised to find a more welcoming feel at Martyrs Park, a raw space full of trash and tents on my several previous visits.

Accessibility remains a challenge. Your best bet is to

park in the Sixth Floor Museum area and walk along the Elm Street sidewalk and through the pedestrian tunnel. Once you emerge, you are only steps from the park.

The most important upgrades have taken place in the tunnel. Never before had I walked through this long dark corridor when it didn't smell like a urinal — and looked even worse. It's now been repaired, painted, scrubbed and lighted. On order is vandal-resistant permanent lighting.

The park department has cleaned out decades of trash, underbrush and scraggly bushes that once encircled much of Martyrs Park. The lower limbs of the stately trees along the street and in

Read more at [www.https://mymessenger.com](https://mymessenger.com)

This story, originally published in *The Dallas Morning News*, is reprinted as part of a collaborative partnership between *The Dallas Morning News* and *Texas Metro News*. The partnership seeks to boost coverage of Dallas' communities of color, particularly in southern Dallas.

Art Imitates Life

By Genoa Barrow
OBSERVER Senior Staff Writer

Hollywood is known for creating fantasies and false narratives, but the entertainment industry does keep it real sometimes, particularly in its efforts to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Mental health awareness for African Americans has found its way into popular TV programs with creators and showrunners including storylines that see main characters seeking therapy or having characters be mental health providers. Other shows feature therapy in other ways.

Filmmaker and show creator Lena Waithe deserves kudos for normalizing therapy by incorporating it into series like “Twenties” and “The Chi.” In a “Twenties” episode titled “Happy Place,” the main character, a queer Black woman named Hattie, played by Jonica “Jojo” T. Gibbs, seeks therapy to understand her father’s absence and its impact on her relationships with men. On “The Chi” after one of the show’s main characters, Kiesha Williams, portrayed by actress Birgundi Baker, is abducted and becomes pregnant from the sexual assault, she is seen in multiple episodes visiting a psychologist.

She also encourages her family to work on their issues. Kiesha’s mother and her wife also see a therapist throughout the series’ six seasons. The main male characters also participate in a circle discussion, meant to help them support each other.

On “Queen Sugar,” the lovingly protective Hollingsworth “Hollywood” Desonier, played by Omar Dorsey,



A men’s group therapy session from a screenshot in an episode of “The Chi.”



Screenshot from an episode of “Living Single” showcasing Jasmine Guy, left, and Queen Latifah, right.

creates and funds a space for men to gather and uplift each other called The Real Spot, after being injured on an oil rig and successfully suing his employer.

Directed by Debbie Allen for most of its six seasons, “A Different World” took on a number of serious issues including apartheid and divestment, domestic violence,



Screenshot from an episode of “In Treatment” showcasing Uzo Aduba in her role.

date rape, and colorism. In an episode titled “Ex-Communication,” its resident Southern belle, Whitley Gilbert, played by Jasmine Guy, visits a therapist to help her through relationship woes. Allen plays the exasperated therapist who helps her find clarity and tells her to “relax, relate, release,” which becomes a mantra for many that is still used to this day to help center one’s self and get through a tough or trying situation.

In an episode of “Living Single” titled, “Shrink to Fit,” Khadijah James, played by rapper-turned actress Queen Latifah, seeks out a therapist to deal with things she’s going through. The therapist, Dr. Bryce, is played by “A Different World” actress Jasmine Guy.

On the series “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” actress Charlene “Michael” Hyatt portrays a therapist, Dr. Noelle Akop-

ian, who provides her client with a safe space to examine her feelings and underlying problems.

On HBO’s “In Treatment,” award-winning actress Uzo Aduba, best known for her role as Crazy Eyes on Netflix’s “Orange is the New Black,” plays a doctor who offers care to patients, while battling her own demons.

MTV’s Couples Retreat highlights celebrity couples. Pairs have included “Love & Hip Hop” stars Joc and Kendra Robinson, R&B singers Ronnie and Shamari DeVoe, and Raymond Santana, one of five Black teens wrongfully convicted of a violent attack in New York’s Central Park in 1989, and “Flavor of Love” alum Chandra “Deelishis” Davis.

The show is hosted by actress-turned wellness and life coach, AJ Johnson and relationship coach Tony Gaskins, who call in a number of experts to offer advice to the couples.

WEtv has similar shows, “Marriage Boot Camp: Hip Hop Edition” and “Marriage Boot Camp: Hip Hop Reality Stars.” Couples get relationship advice from Dr. Ish Major and Judge Lynn Toler. Past pairs have included Soulja Boy and Nia Riley, Monie Love and Tony Tuff, Mally Mall and Tressure Price. Ray J and Princess Love, and Waka Flocka Flame and Tammy Rivera.

This article is part of the Senior Staff Writer Genoa Barrow’s special series, “Head Space: Exploring the Mental Health Needs of Today’s Black Men.”

The post Art Imitates Life appeared first on The Sacramento Observer.

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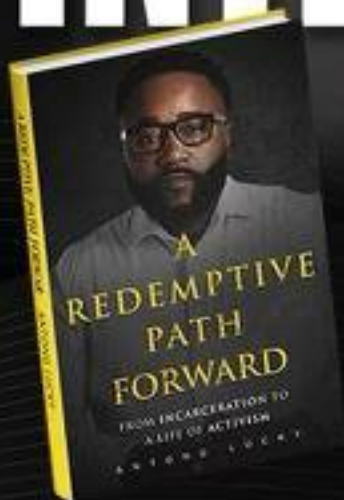
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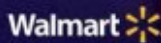
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National Links Trust Celebrates Black Golfers Screening

By Amber D. Dodd
Special to the AFRO

To celebrate Black History Month, The National Links Trust (NLT), a non-profit organization created to protect and promote municipal golf courses, showed the documentary "Uneven Fairways" on Feb. 20. The screening took place at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

"The legends of Black golf have forged for inclusion at the highest levels of golf competition for all people," said Damian Cosby, executive director of NLT.

Released in 2009, Uneven Fairways is narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, an avid golfer whose activism and work in Black communities stretches back to being a student at Morehouse College in the 1960s.

The film highlights the pantheon of Blacks—from Pete Brown, the first Black golfer to win a PGA Tour event at the 1965 Waco Open, to Jim Thorpe, a 75-year-old golfer and Morgan State University graduate with 21 professional wins—who reflect the vanguard of Black golfers who were barred from the professional ranks but persisted in the sport until the PGA's racial barriers ceased in 1961.

Peggy White, the daughter of Ted Rhodes appeared in the documentary, too; Rhodes was widely considered to be the greatest Black golf player before Tiger Woods' emergence.

Rhodes did not get a chance to compete on the PGA Tour.

"I don't think my father was aware of the trailblazer he was," White said. "He had a dream that he would be the finest golfer in the world, but I don't think he realized he accomplished that goal."

Throughout the film, golfers detail how the PGA's color barrier was upheld by a longstanding clause in the PGA. From 1929 to 1961, Article III Section I of the PGA's handbook stated that, "Male professional golfers of the Caucasian race, over the age of eighteen (18) years, residing in North or South America, who can qualify under the terms and condition hereinafter speci-

fied, shall be eligible for membership."

While the documentary tells the story of the individual experience of being Black in golf, Uneven Fairways also highlights the founding of the United Golf Association, commonly known as the Chitlin Circuit, which provided Black golfers opportunities to compete.



Golfer Charlie Sifford smiling as he wins the 1969 Los Angeles Open, 13 January 1969.

Photo: Ben Olender, Los Angeles Times / Wikimedia Commons

"Black people, being very resourceful, wanted to play, and so in 1925, a group of Black businessmen met in a YMCA in Washington, D.C. and basically said 'Well, PGA won't let us play on their tour, so we'll start our own tour,'" said Pete McDaniel, author of Uneven Lines: The Heroic Story of African-Americans in Golf.

Later that year, the first National Negro Open was contested.

The Chitlin Circuit served as an incubator for many of golf's first popular Black players and served as fertile ground for future golf giants.

Speaking to the documentary's name, golfers talked about the conditions of golf courses that UGA players conducted golf tournaments on, citing shoddy landscapes and uneven

grounds, usually played on municipal golf courses.

"One of the reasons why I love municipal golf is that it brings people together," Cosby said. "It's the easy way to get a young Black kid who's probably never seen as much green grass on a golf course to keep them out there. That's what I love about it; it connects people to the game and brings people to the game."

Inclusivity was no question for the UGA. Black women were automatically members of the association. Renee Powell, the second Black woman to participate in the LPGA tour, who spoke about her admission into UGA as a teenage golfer, was mentioned in the documentary.

"All the young Black golfers, that's where they played," Albert Green, a UGA/PGA player, explained. "Lee Alder, Charlie Sifford, Calvin Peete, Teddy Rhodes, that's where those guys got their start."

Ron Terry called the Chitlin Circuit a family affair, "It was a tour where you got to know everybody," he said. "It was more like a fraternity than anything."

Many mentioned how players supported one another in efforts on and off the course.

"We all traveled together anyway, so we helped each other...if you were hungry, we're going to feed you, we weren't going to let go around hungry," Leonard James explained.

Members often paid for and provided their own resources, which they were happy to share with others.

"They were going to eat because I always carried electric pots with me and a frying pan," James Black joked back.

Although an alternative league was created, it was still very clear that the color line imposed barriers that didn't impact White athletes.

"It was a joy to be around but it was separate, totally separate and not equal," said John Merchant, a former USGA executive committee member.

Though golfers made their own efforts to break the color barrier of the golf world, the documentary shed light on how Joe Louis, the former heavyweight champion broke the



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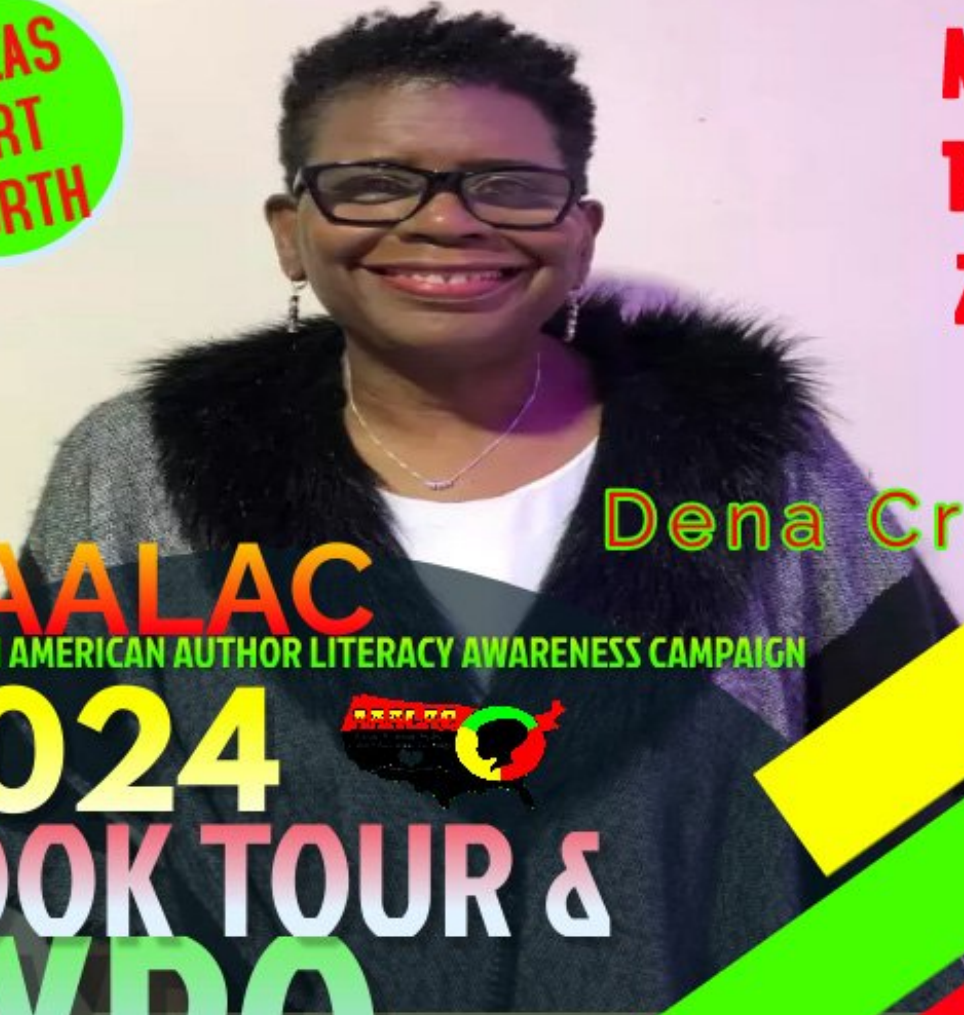
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- Cash Saver/Cost Plus: W. Camp Wisdom Rd.

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- B&B Tax: Pleasant Run Rd.

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- Hilton Express: I-67
- Louisiana Fried Chicken: W. Wheatland Rd.
- Louisiana Catfish: East Daniieldale Road & I-67
- Shell Gas: I-67 and E. Daniieldale Rd.
- Pantera Convenience: I-67 & E. Daniieldale Rd.

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The Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents Surviving the Skin I'm in 1K and 5K walk and run - healthcare 8 AM to 2 PM at Wilmer Hutchins High School 5520 Langdon Rd. To register visit dallasalumnae.org/events

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26

Writerte Law Group, is helping to sustain families in need during the upcoming Easter holiday. The law group is giving away 500 \$100 Honey Baked Ham gift cards to families in need on Tuesday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Honey Baked Hams, 4201 S. Cooper St., Arlington, TX,

28

North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents, Giving Birth with Grace and Power: Fighting for equity in Black Maternal Health, 7 PM to 8:30 pm March 28 featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright, post doctoral fellow, preventative medicine, and cardiovascular epidemiology from the Boston University school of medicine For more information, www.dstncta.org



The Alignable Networking Extravaganza will be held at The Warehouse, 1125 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, at 5:30pm.

APRIL

5

21st First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Banquet Fundraiser, honoring Dave Lieber with the Open Doors - Lifetime achievement Award. Keynote speaker is Cynthia Izaguirre. To RSVP -<http://spjfw.org>. To purchase tickets with CC at <https://AwardScholbanq.eventbrite.com>. To pay at the door for individual tickets, visit https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390. To sponsor - visit https://spjfw.org/?page_id=1390



6

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDEES



Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III



Dr. Harry Robinson Jr.

American Education Archives and History Program Educator's Hall of Fame induction is at the Sheraton in Dallas at noon.

NANBPWC, Inc. Garland Club presents 42nd Annual Founders' Day Scholarship and Awards Luncheon at 11am at the Hyatt Place, 5101 N. George Bush Hwy, Garland, featuring Maria Starling, Ed.D of Alvin Community College in Houston



7

Ledisi - The Good Life Tour - Dallas

27

60th V. Alyce Foster Trailblazer Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the South Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., at 12 noon, HILTON ANATOLE HOTEL Keynote Speaker at this scholarship benefit will be U. S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Subscriptions are \$ 70.00, and ad prices range from \$50-\$500. Among this year's honorees is Ella Goode Johnson, who will receive the coveted WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD.



MAY

5

Miss Jabberwock Pageant at 6:00 pm at Las Colinas Country Club, 4400 N. O'Connor Rd, Irving, TX 75062 presented by the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with Dodd Education and Support, Inc.,

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MARCH 23

Brody the Bunny will be joining in the fun for the City of Wilmer's annual Easter Egg Hunt at EBJ Elementary School at 201 S. Goode Rd, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children to 12, can get in on the fun and spend time hunting Easter eggs with Brody.

Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center is partnering with local nonprofit Living for Zachary to host the "SuperHeart Health & Wellness Block Party" from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1800 Bonnie View Rd, Dallas, kicking off with the SaveStation ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m., marking the fourth AED installation at the Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball Center.

Queen Williene's Closet, a subsidiary of VBJ Enterprises presents



YOU ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH-The Experience and hear from Fashion Stylist & Image Consultant Eureka Calhoun and Psychologist Dr. Olunfunke Awo-



sogba discuss mental wellness & dress for success. Shop for gently-used suits, clothing and gowns, 9am-noon, African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. Register to attend at Eventbrite.

28

UNITING VOICES
SPEAKER SERIES
Thursday, March 28th
Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU



Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU.



North Central Texas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., presents **GIVING BIRTH WITH GRACE AND POWER: FIGHTING FOR EQUITY IN BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH, 7-8:30pm** featuring Dr. Jaylen Wright



29

2024 NCAA Men's Basketball South Regional Experience the Madness of March as Dallas and the American Airlines Center host the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship South Regional on Friday, March 29, Sunday, March 31.

30

Easter Egg Hunt 12-2p.m. Grimes Park Pavilion, 501 W. Wintergreen Rd in DeSoto - join the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



APRIL 4

Booksigning for *"In the Year of COVID, I Saw the Lord,"* by Bishop Jeffery D. Thomas, Sr. is Senior Pastor of the Mt. Rose Church of Dallas at the J.D. Thomas, Sr. Activi-ty Center-7151 Field View Ln



6

African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEAHPP) Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Luncheon where Dr. Jennifer Wimbish will be inducted at Noon at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, 400 Olive Street in Dallas, Texas 75201. You may purchase tickets for \$100 at <https://aaeahp.org/donate/hof-luncheon/>



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Upsi-



lon Nu Zeta Chapter, and Zealous Dove Love Blue Revue Cotillion and Beautillion Scholarship Program! Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Hilton Garden Inn, 800 North Main St, Duncanville, TX 75115 Get your tickets for \$75.00

11



2024 DeSoto Candidate Forum for candidates vying for DeSoto City Council and DeSoto School Board Trustee at DeSoto Civic Center (Bluebonnet Room), 211 E Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

InnoTech Dallas, the Technology and Security Conference will be held at 500 Las Colinas Blvd W Irving, TX 75039. Janet Robertson will be a guest speaker at the InnoTech Dallas Technology and Security Conference at 1p.m. She will lead a conversation titled Fostering Trust and Embracing Change: Building Stronger Business Teams. For info -<https://www.innotechdallas.com/>

16

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS at W.E. Scott Theatre in Fort Worth

20

The Dallas Symphony Orchestra's second annual Young Professionals Experience (YPX), DSO X Troupe Vertigo! This year's experience will be held at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

21

Stock Market Investing & Entrepreneurship,



3-4:30 p.m. for middle-high school students at The DEC @Red Bird, 3560 W. Camp Wisdom. For more info, call Project Still I Rise at 972-546-0977

23

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE DANCING BEYOND BORDERS 7:30pm at Eisemann Center in Richardson

25-26

TwoGether Land, the latest addition to the ONE Musicfest (OMF) family in partnership with Live Nation Urban, is set to make its mark in Dallas at the historic Fair Park.

27

PHILANTHROPARTY 2024 TOGETHER FOR GOOD
The Statler Dallas, 1914 Commerce St, Dallas, TX 75201 6 - 11pm CDT Social Venture Partners Dallas is looking forward to celebrating our 8th Annual Philanthropy!

Reach Media Inc. - Tom Joyner's Ultimate Party with a Purpose is gearing up to embark on the Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage 2024, a transformative experience aimed at supporting students in HBCUs. Departing from Miami, FL, on April 27

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Barbara R. Armwine, Esq.
Co-Host
Daryl D. Jones, Esq.
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BLACK WOMEN PILOTS ACTIVITY SHEET



Hi Everyone!

Even though I fly a lot in Sankofa 82, it never ceases to amaze me what an awesome flying machine she is! It also made me appreciate the fine Black American females who dared to become pilots in the United States. Have you ever been in the cockpit to see how the pilots fly the plane? Let's explore what it takes to become a pilot and meet some of the brave Black American female pilots who took to the skies!



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN FLY!



A pilot is a person that drives a transport vehicle such as an airplane, spacecraft or boat. All types of pilots must pass tests and earn a license before they can operate the vehicle. Airline pilots must be at least 23 years old. A commercial airline pilot's license requires 250 hours of flight experience. The pilots are responsible for making sure that the passengers, crew, and the aircraft itself are safe. Professional female pilots make up only 5% of the piloting workforce, with Black women representing less than 1% of the piloting workforce.

SISTERS OF THE SKIES!

Sisters of the Skies is an organization of professional black women pilots. There are less than 150 black women pilots in the United States holding a license. This organization, which tracks the numbers of Black female pilots, was created to inspire young girls of color to take an interest in aviation through mentoring them and pairing them up with Black female pilots who have already earned their wings.

FIRST BLACK FEMALE PILOT: BESSIE COLEMAN



Even though she started out washing and ironing clothes and giving manicures, **Bessie Coleman** was determined to make more out of her life. With determination to achieve more, she became excited about learning to fly airplanes. Because flying schools in the United States denied her entry, Bessie took it upon herself to learn French and move to France to achieve her goal. Coleman earned her license from France's well known Caudron Brother's School of Aviation. Once back in the United States, Bessie Coleman specialized in stunt flying and parachuting, and earned a living barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She remains a **Pioneer of Women in the Field of Aviation**.



I GOT WINGS!



Monique Grayson, Micah Clark, Alexis Brown and Brianna Jackson are 4 Black women who are affecting history. These four are graduates of the Western Michigan University, College of Aviation. They are among the few who make up the **Sisters of the Skies** who have earned their wings! They are defying the odds and soaring to new heights as commercial airline pilots, all while trailblazing a path to follow for young African American women who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation flight science.

POP-UP! ANOTHER SISTER OF THE SKIES...



Miracle Izuchukwu, age 25, is the youngest Black female pilot for a commercial airline.

ONE MINUTE MADNESS!

Unscramble these words in one minute or less. The first letter of each word is in **bold**.

- sretsiS fo eht seikS _____
- lotPi _____
- aivAnoit _____
- plAaires _____
- Fthgil _____
- pitckoC _____

HIDDEN GEMS

Cross out the names of each animal to uncover who was the **first Black female pilot** and the name of the organization that inspires young black women to become **Black female pilots**.

BEAR BESSIE FROG COLEMAN HEN CAT DOG SISTERS
WOLF PUPPY OF DEER THE PIG BIRD SKIES

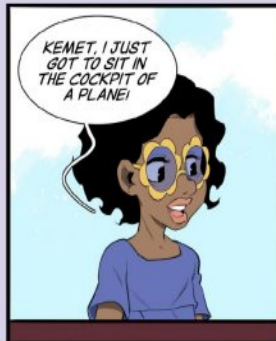
FLIGHT FACTS!

Fill in the blanks from the words in the Word Box below.

inspire, Monique Grayson, Sisters of the Skies, pilot, Aviation, Brianna Jackson, Aviation, Western Michigan, Alexis Brown, French, Micah Clark

- Bessie Coleman was the first! Black female _____
- WMU stands for _____ University.
- The professional organization of Black Female Pilots is called _____
- Bessie Coleman learned _____ to attend the Caudron's Brothers School of _____
- Four women who graduated from Western Michigan University College of Aviation: _____
- Sisters of the Skies, which tracks the number of Black Female pilots, was created to _____ young girls to take interest in the field of _____

KEMET



FLIGHT FACTS!
Sisters of the Skies
Western Michigan
Aviation
French / Aviation
Monique Grayson, Brianna Jackson, Alexis Brown, Micah Clark
inspire/Aviation

ANSWER KEY
ONE MINUTE MADNESS!
Sisters of the Skies
Pilot
Aviation
Airplanes
Flight
Cockpit
HIDDEN GEMS
Bessie Coleman
Sisters of the Skies



ARRESTED



HE IS A SERIAL RAPIST

**He targeted members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
but this is more than about a sorority.**

We're talking about a community.

Come on PEOPLE! Don't you CARE?

**Will it matter when it is your sister, mother,
aunt or grandmother or
maybe YOU?**

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